Government of Saskatchewan

Consensus SASKATCHEWAN

Securing Saskatchewan's Future:

Progress Report on the Implementation of Consensus Saskatchewan

June, 1991

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PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
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It is my pleasure to present to the members of Consensus Saskatchewan a progress report on the implementation of the vision, goals and recommendations of "Leading the Way: A Blueprint for Saskatchewan, Final Report of Consensus Saskatchewan." This progress report describes the achievements to date of the provincial government in responding to the proposals for action outlined in the final report.

It has been one year since the committee was first struck to conduct meetings across the province and to discuss and determine a vision and goals for the province which would carry us through to the next century. It has been a remarkable year for the Consensus Saskatchewan group which worked so hard to complete its task. While the group's original intent was for the implementation to take several years, much progress has been made to date.

Last fall, I was proud to publicly endorse the vision developed by the group and to announce the beginning of a series of provincial responses. One of the government's main legislative thrusts for the current session of the House is based on the recommendations in the report related to democratic reform.

Our government is committed to public consultation and it is with a great deal of satisfaction that we, as Saskatchewan citizens, can view the number of initiatives being set in motion across the country which are reflections of the process pioneered here in Saskatchewan.

Grant Devine
Premier

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Chapter 1. BACKGROUND

Consensus Saskatchewan was announced in the Speech from the Throne in March of 1990. The membership was selected in April and the first plenary session of the group was held in May. Shortly after that, the public meeting phase was conducted throughout the province with over 100 public meetings being held. Over 2,200 people from 270 communities attended the meetings in a six-week period. The Consensus Saskatchewan members then took the information and ideas they had acquired from the meetings and began their own deliberations. The culmination of these deliberations is the document, Leading the Way: A Blueprint for Saskatchewan which was tabled with the Premier in September, 1990.

The purpose of the process was to produce a vision for Saskatchewan which would guide the social and economic future for the province into the next century. In addition, the group was asked to recommend on goals and actions which might assist in achieving that vision.

The final report of Consensus Saskatchewan contains goals and recommendations in four categories:

- growth and well-being of people,
- community security and stability,
- economic expansion and diversification, and
- responsible and efficient management of resources.

The following report is designed to outline the progress made to date by the provincial government in implementing the recommendations of the final report. This progress report is submitted to Consensus Saskatchewan for assessment.

The provincial government, as such, is not the only institution which has a major influence over the future of the province. A myriad of other agencies, institutions and levels of government also have a role to play; as does every individual. 'Leading the Way' is intended as the beginning of a much longer and more inclusive process.

Chapter 2. NEW REALITIES AND THE PUBLIC PROCESS

The first stage of response to the final report relates to the processes of government itself. In the pamphlet **New Realities and the Public Process**, the Premier outlined the government's intent to put its own house in order by introducing a series of government reforms.

The result was the introduction of several pieces of legislation during the spring session of the House. The legislation includes bills on the freedom of information and the protection of privacy, the expansion of the role of the provincial auditor and on the use of plebiscites and referenda.

Furthermore, the Speaker of the House was elected for the first time in the history of the Legislature.

In a desire to make government more efficient and smaller, several departments of government were amalgamated and the number of civil servants was reduced.

In the Consensus report, the group discussed the public's concern with the availability of good, basic information on topics of major, public interest and on the public's capacity to be involved in the process of setting policy. In response to this concern, initiatives have been undertaken including the pre-budget consultation process conducted by the Minister of Finance in advance of the current budget. The subsequent budget material, which has been made widely available, will help meet the public's expectation that it be kept more informed and involved.

Engaging people meaningfully in matters of public policy will be the great challenge of the latter twentieth century and one which the Government of Saskatchewan intends to address.

Chapter 3. SUMMARY OF THE KEY ACTIONS TAKEN

While Chapter 5 of the report outlines in a more detailed way actions taken to date under each recommendation, the following list is a summary of major actions which reflect either the recommendations of the report specifically or the goals of the report generally.

Fiscal Management and Accountability

- Reduction of the budget deficit and development of a long-range plan to balance the budget by 1993.
- Elimination of severance packages for Members of the Legislature.
- Introduction of legislation on freedom of information and protection of privacy.
- Introduction of referendum and plebiscite legislation.
- Expanded role for the provincial auditor, including a provision for "value for money" auditing.
- Administrative simplification of the provincial tax system, through harmonization of the E and H tax.
- Introduction of an annual health care expenditure statement for Saskatchewan families.

Community Security and Stability

- Stabilization of the economy through the new agricultural safety net programs.
- Fair Share Saskatchewan - the government's program to stabilize smaller urban communities through decentralization of government offices.
- Launching of the Community Bonds Program to encourage communities to utilize local capital to develop enterprises based on local priorities.

Economic and Social Programming Initiatives

- Establishment of the International Centre for Agricultural Science and Technology in Saskatoon and funding commitments for future centres of excellence for research in other areas, including health and advanced technology.
- Programs in education to bring more practical, Saskatchewan-oriented information into the classroom. These include a new agriculture video and resource kit to supplement the 'Agriculture in the Classroom' and 'Project Real World", which teaches high school students entrepreneurial skills, citizen action and responsibility and consumer information.

The vision which was reproduced in pamphlet format, along with the summary of the goals and recommendations, has been widely distributed throughout the province.

The purpose of the vision statement is to outline for the people of the province a picture of the Saskatchewan of the future. This is a future of prosperity, independence and stability. It is one in which responsible individuals live within a strong family framework and in viable, healthy communities. It is a province with both a quality education system and a quality health care system. The economy is diversified and active, with a mix of both large and small enterprises. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong and the province's traditional economic strengths are maximized. The provincial budget is balanced and the provincial debt has been retired.

Any successful planning process must begin with a sense of the future and what it should look like. From there, goals must be set and pursued through a variety of planned actions. This combination of vision, goals, and actions to fit the goals is at the root of any successful enterprise. The research tells us that the affected people must be involved in all the stages of planning and action in order for the plan to succeed. Consensus Saskatchewan was one of the most ambitious vision-setting and goal setting processes ever undertaken in a modern democracy.

The next stage is to take the vision and goals and tie to them a series of actions which will, over time, realize the vision. The following summary of initiatives taken to date will demonstrate the degree to which the Government of Saskatchewan has progressed with the actions which will make the vision a reality and the achievement of the goals a benefit to the whole society.

CHAPTER 5: **PROGRESS ON THE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

A. GROWTH AND WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE

INDIVIDUALS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Our Goal Is:

The people of Saskatchewan are independent, responsible individuals who enjoy the basic needs of life including food, adequate shelter, access to educational and employment opportunities. We respect one another and we care about one another. We take pride in each other's successes, and are supportive during times of trouble. We have a positive outlook, and this optimism is contagious.

Recommendations

1.1 Every Saskatchewan community must create an environment that supports all individuals to reach their fullest potential as healthy, contributing members of society, and that fosters individual responsibility and accountability.

1.1 **Family Foundation:**

- 167 Forums About Families held. More planned.
- Co-ordinated farm stress initiatives including Counselling Assistance for Farmers (CAFF) workshop, 5 forums about families on farm stress, and Farm Paks Information Kits. Will distribute information at Western Farm Progress show. Will also be doing training and resource identification on farm stress this summer.
- On youth, held 6 consultations, 7 workshops and 38 youth-focused Forums About Families. Also held "Listen to Me"; Youth Roundtable and developed a Youth Strategy and Action Plan for government.
- Delivered Community Consumer Education Program including money-management skills, financial planning, etc.
- Will lead development of public involvement strategy/citizen education kit to empower individuals to be effective members of their community.
- Assisted in production of a second series of "Street Cents", an award-winning marketplace television program for young people and distributed "Street Cents" magazine.
- Agreed to work towards a national policy on the problem of drugs in sport.

Human Resources, Labour and Employment:

- Hosted employment and disability workshops to give persons with disabilities and human resources personnel an opportunity to discuss employment needs and concerns of the disabled.

Education:

- Established "Stay in School" Minister's Advisory Committee to develop strategies to reduce the number of early school leavers.

Economic Diversification and Trade:

- Community Bonds provide means for local initiative and control of economic and community development.

1.2	Individuals in Saskatchewan must enjoy freedom from discrimination based on race colour, creed, religion, sex, marital status, disability, age, nationality, ancestry or place of origin. We support an employment equity plan that is universally mandatory in all government sectors.	1.2	**Family Foundation:** . Held Forums About Families on race relations and multicultural youth. . Responded to Multicultural Task Force published, "Building our Multicultural Future Together", and developed an action plan. . Encouraged agencies to pursue multicultural initiatives. e.g. Race Relations Conference at Archdiocese of Regina, First English Learners Conference, etc. **Human Resources, Labour and Employment:** . Promoted and administered an Employment Fairness Plan in civil service and expanded target groups to include persons with mental disabilities. **Education:** . Released K-12 Gender Equity Policy. The policy encourages equal opportunities for female and male students in schools. . Maintain Advanced Education Enhancement Fund for 1991-92 to improve accessibility and distance education. . Federal and provincial governments will provide nearly $100 million in student financial assistance in 1991-92.
1.3	Serious consideration must be given to strategies that address the causes of hunger.	1.3	**Family Foundation with Social Services and Education:** . Targeted $740,000 to address child hunger including consulting with communities and promoting a co-ordinated community response, compiling information on nutrition, and sponsoring a community schools conference. **Family Foundation:** . Delivered "Marketplace Living Skills Program" for low-income people and developed "Shopping for Food and Nutrition". Have made an ongoing commitment to fighting hunger this year and next. **Social Services:** . Social assistance rates were increased for families with children (fall, 1990). . Social assistance recipients with children will benefit from "passing through" the GST child tax credit and the E & H family tax credit.
1.4	No person should be without access to adequate and safe shelter.	1.4	**Family Foundation and Social Services:** . Examining the housing needs of battered women and their children.

1.5	Saskatchewan must recognize and encourage the talents and strengths of aboriginal people to ensure their full and active participation in our society. We must remove any barriers which would inhibit the participation of aboriginal people in the life of our communities or our province.	1.5 **Family Foundation:** . Forums About Families included several delivered for and by aboriginal people. . Developed "Marketplace Living Skills" program to fit the needs of aboriginal people. . Produced native role model posters in partnership with Saskatchewan Sport Inc. **Indian and Metis Affairs Secretariat:** . Province has been working with the federal government and entitlement bands to resolve outstanding treaty land entitlement.
1.6	Women must be given the opportunity to play a more active role in our social and economic systems.	1.6 **Family Foundation:** . Several Forums About Families focused on women, e.g. Status of Women's conference; Women and Wellness. . Developed Credit Granting Guidelines for Women. . Supporting 1991 conferences including Sask. Women's Agricultural Network (June 1991) and Women and Mental Well-Being (October 1991). **Women's Secretariat:** . Ensured that women's needs and perspective are considered in the development and delivery of programs and services.
1.7	Seniors must enjoy a quality of life that includes good health care, housing, transportation. We must enable seniors to be independent.	1.7 **Seniors' Secretariat/Family Foundation:** . Several Forums About Families on seniors have been held. . Developing quality of life strategies for seniors (ongoing) including maintaining income and social support programs; addressing issues such as pension reform and housing options; developing "Seniors Helping Seniors" projects; and consulting with seniors. . Responded to 1990 study called "Seniors Fitness and Lifestyles Project". . Distributed consumer information kit, the Senior Consumer: Protect Yourself. **Highways and Transportation:** . Initiatives to enhance transportation service for seniors include: - Volunteer Drivers Program. - Rural Transport Assistance Program. - Rural Bus Subsidy Program. - Lower registration fees for transit and handicapped buses. - Intraprovincial passenger and express service and rate control. - Brief to Royal Commission on National Passenger Transportation. - Engineering standards for visibility of highway signage. . The Department is reviewing options to enhance transportation initiatives for seniors. Public consultations are being held and funding and regulatory issues are being examined.

1.8	Our multi-cultural heritage demands that communities, families and individuals exhibit understanding, respect and equal opportunity for minorities and those who choose to immigrate to our province.	1.8	**Family Foundation:** . Supported community conferences on racism issues (e.g. forum on intercultural relations - Fall 1990). . Forums About Families - Immigrant Women Conference (June 1990). . Produced with Education "English Times", a newspaper to improve adult reading ability. . Will support "Immigrants, Refugees, Families and Wellbeing Conference" (October 1991). . Developing a multicultural education policy and heritage language policy through Minister of Education's Heritage Language Reference Committee. . Released directory of "Where to Learn English in Saskatchewan".
1.9	The issues of family and personal violence must be confronted in an active way. Our focus must be on preventive education and meeting the needs of victims.	1.9	**Family Foundation:** . Developed through the interdepartmental Working Committee on Family Policy a multi-disciplinary family violence strategy that emphasizes prevention, intervention, treatment, follow-up and support, and program evaluation. Will continue to review programs, and respond to new federal initiatives. **Social Services:** . Staff involved in child protection services for abused and neglected children will increase by 12 in the current year. . Ongoing funding has been earmarked for child counsellors in four women's shelters and modest budget increases for transition houses have been planned. **Justice:** . A provincial strategy on delivery of victims services is being developed, to enhance the Criminal Injuries Compensation program. **Education:** . Optional units on family violence for students in grades 7, 8 and 9 have been implemented within the health curriculum. Units at the grade 11 and 12 levels are being developed.

1.10	The corrections system must provide real incentives for recovery and change.	1.10 **Justice:** . Reorientation towards Prison Industry production in provincial correctional system to develop skills and earn money for use upon discharge. . Formal substance abuse education programs supplement AA programs. Sex offender treatment programs are in planning stages. . Corrections staff and halfway house staff assist with reintegration into society. . Additional space was added to the Pine Grove Correctional Centre (for women) to accommodate program enhancements. . Cultural activities specific to natives were promoted and facilitated in all the major correctional centres. A group programming concept was introduced in the Pinehouse district to maximize the benefit of limited program resources for probationers. **Social Services:** . The Young Offender Program provides numerous opportunities for young offenders to grow and develop through a range of programs including individual and group counselling, education, recreation, development of life and work skills and work experiences. These services are available in secure and open custody facilities, community homes and day programs.

OUR FAMILIES

Our Goal Is:

Saskatchewan families are healthy and supportive. When needed, we provide services to families both to maintain a healthy situation and to deal with crises. We respect our children and have integrated them into all parts of society and our lives.

Recommendations

1.11	Our society must promote parenting skills.	**Family Foundation:** . Sponsored 167 Forums About Families. . Developed inventory of government resources on parenting. . Developed Parent Paks (information kits). . Conducted Family Affair Trade Show. . Developed Parent Education Presenters Listing. . Will facilitate National Family Week (October 1991). . 25 Forums About Families are planned for fall, 1991. . Will ensure the provision of parenting education programs. . Will release "Family Guide for Teaching Kids About Money". **Social Services:** . Saskatoon Family Support Centre has moved to a new facility. . In-home family support funding will be increased for parent-aides, for families requiring this assistance.
1.12	Tangible support must be given to individuals and families who have accepted responsibility for the care of special needs family members.	**Family Foundation:** . Seven Forums About Families on special needs were held. **Health:** . Saskatchewan Health funds respite beds in institutions and respite services by home care to relieve primary caregivers. **Human Resources, Labour and Employment:** . Established new Disabilities Directorate.

1.13	The variety of family structures must be recognized through provision of formal and informal support systems.	1.13 **Family Foundation:** . Developed tabloid-style newspaper supplement on family issues. **Social Services:** . Placing foster children with extended family members is being emphasized. . Foster parent rates were increased in April and are scheduled to increase again in the fall. **Justice:** . New legislation consolidating and updating provincial custody/access and maintenance law was proclaimed in December, 1990 - The Children's Law Act and The Family Maintenance Act. As well as providing broader support to all families, the legislation emphasizes the potential use of mediation. Saskatchewan Justice Mediation Services role has also been expanded to include mediation in family disputes.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Our Goal Is:

The people of Saskatchewan are committed to excellence in the education of our children and of our citizens. We provide equal education opportunities for all our people. Partnerships are developed with families, business and the communities to meet our educational needs.

Recommendations

1.14 Saskatchewan schools must continue to implement the "Core Curriculum".

1.14 **Education:**
- Continued to implement Core curriculum in all required areas of study.
- Implemented new science curriculum (elementary).
- Developing and implementing core curriculum evaluation program.
- Will develop handbook and deliver in-service for teachers on instructional approaches (Fall 1991).
- Will implement new arts education curriculum (elementary)(Fall 1991).

1.15 For new development in core curriculum, we should proceed toward a national curriculum.

1.16 Our education system must prepare youth to be both employers and employees in society. The development of entrepreneurial skills and spirit in Saskatchewan people should be encouraged.

1.16 **Family Foundation:**
- Developed national education resource called "Project Real World: Economic Living Skills for High School Students".

Education:
- Piloting an entrepreneurship course for high school students.

1.17 The curriculum must emphasize the development of values such as integrity, responsibility in decision making, healthy lifestyles, and pride in our province and country.

1.17 **Family Foundation:**
- Project Real World includes modules on entrepreneurialism, citizen action and responsibility, and consumerism.

Health:
- "Team Health" representatives spoke regularly to school children about healthy lifestyles.

Education:
- Continued implementation of the Common Essential Learnings within the Core Curriculum. These include personal values and social skills.

1.18	Because Saskatchewan's economy is largely based on agriculture, our educational system must teach children about agriculture, especially future trends.	1.18 **Education:** . To build upon the success of the "Agriculture in the Classroom" project, the department has released Agriculture video and resource kit for classroom use. . The video and resource kit is part of a series of kits produced as a supplement to curriculum on Saskatchewan's resources. Others include: petroleum, forestry, uranium, potash and energy and the environment. These kits are being produced in cooperation with industry. . Agriculture Development Fund has contributed to educational initiatives of the Ag Insight Foundation. . Agriculture Development Fund has developed Teachers' Resource Packages in cooperation with Agribition and the Department of Education.
1.19	The Saskatchewan curriculum must address with compassion and understanding its "Special Needs Students."	1.19 **Education:** . Released alternative education policy for children with special needs.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Our Goal Is:

The people of Saskatchewan believe in life-long learning. In response, Saskatchewan offers high-quality post-secondary education. Education systems address the needs of our students and citizens by constantly improving instruction, equipment and facilities. The importance of post-secondary education is evident in the wide variety of course offerings, adequate student spaces and decentralization of programs.

Recommendations

1.20 Post-secondary education must respond to a strong demand for access to opportunities.

1.20 **Education:**

- Developing SIAST Centre for Entrepreneurial Development.
- Delivery of university and SIAST courses has been expanded through 51 SCN centres in locations throughout the province.
- Maintained Advanced Education Enhancement Fund in 1991-92 to improve accessibility.
- Federal and provincial governments will provide nearly $100 million in 1991-92 in student financial assistance.

1.21 Active research programs at post-secondary institutions in the areas of learning and teaching are necessary for the Saskatchewan education system to be viewed as one of the best in the world.

1.21 **Education:**

- Continued support in 1991-92 budget for the Saskatchewan Instructional Development and Research Unit at the University of Regina; the Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit at the University of Saskatchewan; and the Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit at the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.
- New regulations for private vocational schools were established in June 1990.

1.22 Incentives should be given to encourage the graduates of post-secondary education to remain in the province.

1.21 and 1.22 **Agriculture and Food:**

- With the establishment of an International Centre for Agricultural Science and Technology (ICAST) at the University of Saskatchewan, this province expects to retain and attract both researchers and educators.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Our Goal Is:

The Saskatchewan educational system is responsive to the cultural needs of aboriginal people. There is no difference between the percentage of aboriginal people and the percentage of non-aboriginal people who achieve a grade twelve diploma.

Recommendations

1.23	Training programs and curricula must address aboriginal culture in a way which supports all people living together in our society.	1.23 **Education:** . Continued implementation of the Indian and Metis Education Policy from Kindergarten to Grade 12. . Implemented new Native Studies Curriculum for grade 10 and will extend to grades 11 and 12 in 1991. . Will release Indian, Metis and Inuit Art Curriculum Resource Kit (Summer 1991). . Developing a grades 4 to 6 Indian Languages curriculum to be piloted in 1991-92.
1.24	Saskatchewan educators must be among the national experts in aboriginal education.	1.24 **Education:** . Continued support for the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) and the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP). . Indian and Metis Education Staff Development Program is being offered to school divisions.
1.25	Aboriginal educators must be represented throughout the education systems.	1.25 **Education:** . 19 school divisions have developed education equity plans.

OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Our Goal Is:

Saskatchewan has a health care system which is of high quality and universally accessible. Our health care system is enhanced and able to meet the changing demands of our people. We maintain the quality and accessibly of our health care systems but ensure its responsible use. We deliver our services efficiently so that our health care is affordable.

Recommendations

1.26 The people of Saskatchewan must accept that good health is an individual responsibility.

1.26 **Health:**
- "Everyone Wins" public information campaign emphasizing that lifestyles and wellness are individual responsibilities.

Family Foundation:
- Introduced Employee Wellness Program and co-ordinated provincial involvement in Canada's "Fit Week".

1.27 Consumers must be allowed a sense of ownership for their health care and a means to control the health care they receive.

1.27 **Health:**
- Every family in the province received a health expenditure statement earlier this year.

1.28 Professionals, para-professionals and volunteers are service providers in our health care system and their roles must be re-assessed.

1.29 Home care services which allow people to stay in their own home wherever possible must be enhanced.

1.29 **Health:**
- Home care received a larger funding increase than hospitals and special care homes.

1.30 The delivery and use of services in health care facilities must ensure the most effective and efficient system.

1.30 **Health:**
- Government has created the Saskatoon Health Services Authority to facilitate improved coordination of hospital services in Saskatoon.

1.31 The Saskatchewan Commission on Directions in Health Care Report should form a basis for further discussion and implementation based on increased efficiency and cost effectiveness.

1.31 **Health:**
- Wide-spread consultations have been initiated with health service providers about the recommendations of the Saskatchewan Commission on Directions in Health Care.

1.32 Future discussions on health care should include an evaluation of the ethical issues associated with advanced medical technologies.

B. COMMUNITY SECURITY AND STABILITY

COMMUNITY ATTITUDE

Our Goal Is:

We have pride in, as well as respect and responsibility for ourselves and our communities. The people of Saskatchewan have a positive attitude.

Recommendations

2.1 Locally, regionally and provincially elected officials must be more accountable to the constituents they serve. The constituents, in turn, must take more responsibility for providing input to their elected officials.

2.1 **General Government Initiatives:**
- Provincial government is developing an education and information program promoting more effective public involvement in democratic processes and decision-making.
- Provincial government has introduced legislation to the House regarding more open government and encouraging public input.
- Provincial government is committed to exploring the possibility of more free votes in the House.

Family Foundation:
- Developing a Public Involvement Strategy and Citizen Education Kit.
- In consultation with the community, will develop Action Plans on Arts Strategy Task Force.

Justice:
- New legislation on the freedom of information and on the use of plebiscites and referenda has been introduced.

2.2 Governments at all levels have the mandate to lead the people they serve. It is the responsibility of all citizens to ensure accountability of governments and to be responsible and accountable ourselves individually, and in the larger units of family and community.

2.2 **Community Services:**
- Smaller more focused government - in January, 1991 the Department of Community Services was formed from a number of government agencies. The new department provides a clearer and simpler focus for programs and services directed to communities. Associated with this consolidation, bureaucratic streamlining and downsizing has been possible.

Family Foundation:
- Established a Citizen's Review Committee to review actions taken from the Recreation Plan.
- Developed and delivered government-wide Clear Language Program.

2.3 Our society must separate needs from wants in making demands on government.

2.4	Individual communities must determine their own priorities and ensure that services which are not provincially funded and which are important to them are maintained either through volunteer service delivery or through their own funding.	2.4 **Family Foundation:** . Transfer of funding and program responsibility to the voluntary sector. **Rural Development:** . 65 community economic development committees are funded 50% by government. . 33 rural development corporations allow local decision-making on development priorities. **Economic Diversification and Trade:** . Community Bonds Program encourages local priority setting.

LOCAL INITIATIVE - How Communities Support Local Business

Our Goal Is:

We have viable communities which attract and sustain a variety of businesses and services.

Recommendations

2.5 It is the responsibility of communities to develop and promote an economic and social environment that encourages new business.

2.6 For communities to remain viable, it is imperative that local people support community business to the fullest extent possible.

2.7 The government should restructure the present system of grants and subsidies to small business and redirect any savings to an interest rate stabilization program.

2.8 Direct grants to businesses should be restricted.

2.9 Financial institutions must ensure that identical rules for business financing apply in urban and rural areas.

2.5 **Rural Development:**
- As of May, 1991, 33 rural development corporations (RDC's) have been established involving 219 municipalities. RDC's facilitate and coordinate development projects.

Fair Share Saskatchewan:
- In an attempt to stabilize the economic base of Saskatchewan communities the government will be relocating up to 100 administrative units to various locations throughout the province.

2.6 **Economic Diversification and Trade:**
- Community Bond initiative: 62 companies incorporated with 4 bond offers complete (as of May 28, 1991) and another 6 underway.

2.7 **Economic Diversification and Trade/Rural Development:**
- The Community Bond program and the Rural Development Corporations encourage community involvement in development, fundraising and implementation of local business projects.

2.8 **Community Services:**
- Elimination of the Business Tax Assistance Program. The program was eliminated with the introduction of the 1991-92 budget. This action responded to calls for reduced government grants and subsidies for business.

TOURISM - ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION WITHIN A COMMUNITY

Our Goal Is:

Each community or region of the province has a tourism plan that is unique to its area.

Recommendations

2.10 The development of a tourism plan for a community or region will depend on the planning and initiative of the local people.

2.10 **Economic Diversification and Trade:**
- Community Tourism Assistance Program committed $2.6M to 82 communities for local development.
- A proposed Tourism Strategy has been discussed through a public consultation process.
- "Heart of the Old North West" regional tourism initiative was announced as part of Destination Saskatchewan Program.

Family Foundation:
- Exploring Regional Heritage Tourism Planning initiatives.

2.11 Community signage for tourist facilities and services must be increased, upgraded, and highly visible.

2.11 **Highways and Transportation:**
- Consideration is given to signage and development of tourism roads, as part of provincial highway planning.
- Policies and standards exist for the signing of tourist facilities and services.
- The Department works closely with Economic Diversification and Trade, Rural Development, and Parks and Renewable Resources to promote tourism by providing quality infrastructure and tourism signing.
- Public consultations with stakeholders in tourism industry is underway.

2.12 Communities and business must promote awareness of direct sales tax refunds to out-of-province tourists.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Restructuring Saskatchewan Communities

Our Goal Is:

Regionalization of communities and rationalization of services to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of provincial and municipal government services. This contributes to economic survival of communities.

Recommendations

2.13 The provincial government must take the initiative to effect the rationalization of local governments and provide leadership in establishing efficient, practical and rational common boundaries for:

- Education
- Health
- Social Programs
- Protective Services
- Cultural and Recreation Services
- Government Services
- Emergency Measures
- Ambulance Services
- Transportation and Communication Systems
- Environmental Management

2.14 The establishment of new facilities, closing or changing the mandate of old facilities and scrutiny of activities and budgets must be done on a regional basis.

2.15 Authority, responsibility and accountability for program delivery should be vested in regions. A continuing evaluation of regional programs and services shall be undertaken to ensure they are meeting the needs of the communities within the regions.

2.13 **Community Services:**

. Local Government reorganization - preliminary consultations have occurred.

Family Foundation:

. Serve as an entry point to government
  - forum for community/NGO discussion
  - assist community access to human service departments
  - referral to human services programs

Economic Diversification and Trade:

. Community Tourism Assistance Program (CTAP) and bonds allow existing community agencies (e.g. Rural Development Corporations) to form basis of local initiative.

2.14 See 2.13 above.

2.15 See 2.13 above.

Human Resources, Labour and Employment:

. The Labour Standards Branch has been regionalized.

2.16	Transportation services must appropriately support movement of people, products, equipment and other services within and between regions.	2.16 **Highways and Transportation:** . Department is pursuing options to provide appropriate levels of service: - Strengthening North-South air links, including establishment of Regina/Saskatoon to Denver service by Time Air. - Participation on federal-provincial advisory committee developing Canadian position for air bilateral negotiations with the United States. - Improvement of regional air services. - Public input to establish transportation priorities should be enhanced (ongoing). - Opportunities for federal cost-sharing of transportation services are being pursued for air, bus, rail and road systems (ongoing).
2.17	Aboriginal land claims must be settled. The province must ensure no loss of assessment revenue in the process of negotiation.	2.17 **Indian and Metis Affairs Secretariat:** . Using the Treaty Commissioner's Report as a basis for discussions, the federal government, entitlement bands, and the Province are continuing to work closely to resolve outstanding treaty land entitlement. . Arriving at a cost sharing with the federal government for the purchase of land, and compensation for any municipal tax loss are two of the outstanding issues which must be resolved.

PRIMARY SERVICES

Our Goal Is:

Communities nurture our people by providing opportunities for, and access to, employment, quality health, education, culture and recreation, social programs, and a clean environment.

Employment Recommendations

2.18 Communities must develop an employment plan that includes an inventory of employment opportunities, business opportunities and resources.

2.18 **Human Resources, Labour and Employment:**
- "Saskatchewan Opportunities" program will provide summer employment for students.
- Will implement a communications strategy directed at youth, post-secondary graduates and prospective immigrants, concerning labour market shortages, career opportunities and job search techniques.
- Province is negotiating a federal-provincial agreement on labour force development.

Economic Diversification and Trade:
- Department encourages community planning and assessment as part of Community Bond Program.

2.19 Communities must have an understanding of, and a sensitivity to, business and entrepreneurship as essential to the well being of the community.

2.19 **Family Foundation**
- "Project Real World" will provide high school students with an understanding of entrepreneurship.

2.20 The provincial government must take measures to expand our population base through immigration, and through migration from other parts of Canada.

2.20 **Human Resources, Labour and Employment:**
- Province is negotiating a federal/provincial immigration agreement that will meet Saskatchewan's community and labour market needs.
- Government is negotiating with the federal government for the transfer of federal government offices to Saskatchewan.

2.21 Northern development must create employment for northern peoples, and in particular, northern youth.

2.21 **Community Services:**
- Northern Economic Development Task Force Report - recently released by the Premier. Developed after extensive consultation with northern people and groups. Provides a blueprint for the social and economic development of the north.

Health Care Recommendations

2.22 Communities must actively promote voluntarism to support expanded home care programs, health care promotion and other health programs.

2.23 Regionalization of health services, with regional boards, must be implemented to ensure a full range of basic community care services.

Education Recommendations

2.24 Communities must have access to elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education and adult training and upgrading through the use of the province's distance education network.

2.25 Saskatchewan educational facilities must be fully utilized by the public.

2.26 The education system should be rationalized to reduce administrative costs, competition between communities and duplication of services.

2.27 The governance structure of our post-secondary institutions must be reviewed to ensure they are sensitive to changing social and economic needs.

2.24 **Saskatchewan Communications Network (SCN) officially launched in May, 1991.**

Education:

- Established Minister's Advisory Committee on K-12 Distance Education.
- Launched K-12 distance education project.
- Delivery of University and SIAST courses was expanded through SCN.
- Discussion paper on Distance Education released.
- Developing five year plan for Distance Education (post-secondary).

2.26 **Education:**

- Developing policy on Regional Colleges Facilities.
- Initiated K-12 School Finance and Governance Review.

Culture, Recreation and Sport Recommendations

2.28 Each region must have an arts plan developed within and between communities to foster co-operative programming that meets the interests of the population.

2.28 **Family Foundation:**
- Respond to Arts Strategy Task Force report, Focus on the Future, and implement action plan.

2.29 Active involvement in the arts and cultural activities must be provided for and encouraged.

2.30 A recreational strategy must be developed within and between communities to make maximum use of facilities and human resources, and meet the need for access to recreational programs.

2.30 **Family Foundation:**
- Will implement action plans arising from the 1990 Recreation Plan, "Partners Working Together: A Recreation Plan for Saskatchewan", developed with Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association.

2.31 Communities should provide for and encourage active involvement in sports and recreation activities. We must provide a wide range of community-based sports and recreation activities for fun and fitness.

2.31 **Family Foundation:**
- See 2.30 above. Lottery funding provides support to local communities for recreational activities.

2.32 Voluntarism should be recognized as instrumental in maintaining quality of life in the community.

2.32 **Family Foundation**
- Developing a Public Involvement Strategy Citizen Education Kit.
- Sponsors volunteer week.
- Family forums and youth workshops utilize local volunteers extensively in planning and delivery.

Environment Recommendations

2.33 Communities must demonstrate a concern for environmental issues and implement programs to enhance, protect and maintain a healthy environment.

2.33 **Environment and Public Safety:**
- Responsible Living campaign has been created to assist local communities and individuals become aware of and deal with environmental issues.

2.34 Each urban community must provide green spaces.

2.35 Steps need to be taken to ensure adequate supplies of good quality water for agricultural, domestic, industrial and recreational purposes.

2.35 **Environment and Public Safety:**
- South Saskatchewan River Basin Study will be released in June, 1991.
- Regina Aquifer Study was released in March 1991.
- New drinking water quality objectives have been set; released in May 1991.

Saskatchewan Water Corporation/Agriculture and Food:
- Water utilization is regularly monitored.

Social Programs Recommendations

2.36 The assessment of need for social programs must be undertaken at the community level.

2.36 **Social Services, Justice, Health and Family Foundation:**
- A review of Mobile Crisis Services in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert has been initiated involving local community committees.

INDUSTRY DIVERSIFICATION AND EXPANSION

Our Goal Is:

The impact of the cyclical nature of our resource based economy is reduced through diversification and expansion into more small scale manufacturing, niche markets, cultural industries, and high value added processing of products for domestic and international markets.

Recommendations

3.1 Government policies and programs, at all levels, must create a healthy and stable business environment which contributes to the viability of small business and cultural industries.

3.1 **Economic Diversification and Trade:**
- Economic Diversification Council was appointed in September 1990 and reported to the Premier in January 1991; the Council proposed a number of reforms to create a more positive and stable business environment in the province.

Finance:
- Harmonization of E & H tax with the federal goods and services tax will reduce taxation of inputs for business, thereby improving the competitive position of Saskatchewan business.

3.2 Universities, government and researchers must find an effective means to communicate information about research and development discoveries, new markets, and the potential application of new technologies to those who are in a position to take advantage of them.

3.2 **Agriculture and Food:**
- Canola producers joined other producer groups in dedicating a levy for research, development and marketing. These levies, known as check-offs, support research and promotion initiatives.

Economic Diversification and Trade:
- Department has committed $3.5M to 47 projects in high technology field.

Saskatchewan Communications Network:
- Saskatchewan Communications Network (SCN) will support dissemination of information in this area.

3.3 Economic expansion and diversification must become a long term commitment for the local community and for all levels of government. Programs to assist small business and farmers must be long term with specific sunset clauses to facilitate planning.

3.3 **Agriculture and Food:**
- Gross Revenue Insurance Program (GRIP) and Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) has been implemented for 1991.
- Third Line of Defense Program for 1991 was received from the Federal Government in April, 1991.
- Farm finance initiatives will be examined at federal/provincial Agriculture Ministers meeting in July, 1991.
- Government is pressing federal government for additional third line assistance for agriculture producers.

3.4	Provincial and municipal governments must make further development and improved maintenance of our roads and highways a priority. Saskatchewan will also require an effective regional air service to link all of our larger communities, within the province and to cities beyond our borders.	3.4	See 2.16 above.
3.5	Some large economic development projects are beneficial and must be undertaken when and where appropriate.	3.5	**Agriculture and Food:** . The Agriculture Development Fund has supported studies related to operations in established inland grain terminals, and feasibility studies for others. **Crown Management Board:** . Such projects as the Heavy Oil upgraders in Lloydminster and in Regina are contributing value-added additions to Saskatchewan's natural resource extraction industries. These projects are too large for private industry to achieve alone, but in the long-term they support secondary industrial development. **Human Resources, Labour and Employment:** . Province negotiated Human Resource Development Agreements for major employment projects to promote hiring Saskatchewan residents and coordinate training and employment opportunities for identified target groups.
3.6	Trade promotion must be undertaken as an integral part of economic expansion and diversification.	3.6	**Economic Diversification and Trade:** . The department has committed $227,954 to 168 projects under Export Marketing Assistance Program.

AGRICULTURE

Our Goal Is:

We continue to produce the highest quality food products for domestic and world markets and further improve our capacity to process what we produce.

Recommendations

3.7 The government must focus its efforts on promoting the development of value added processing activities in the province.

3.7 **Saskatchewan Diversification Corporation:**
- The Buy Saskatchewan agency promotes production of value-added processing by encouraging tendering by local businesses. ($178M in business awarded in 1990).
- Community Bonds promote projects related to value added processing.

Agriculture and Food:
- Saskatchewan Food Processors Association was formed with government assistance to promote the development and marketing of a value-added food processing sector.
- Agriculture Development Fund underwrites initiatives related to value added processing.
- Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Food Production, Processing and Marketing is one of several councils advising on various aspects of agriculture and food production.
- Agriculture Development and Diversification Secretariat assists in a broad range of project activities focused on diversifying and expanding the agricultural base.

3.8 The Provincial Government needs to work vigorously with other governments, including federal and international, to bring about the changes that are necessary in areas such as grain pricing, interest rate subsidies, and freight rates.

3.8 **Agriculture and Food:**
- The National Agriculture and Food Policy Review is reviewing all agriculture policies; focusing on transportation, financing, management, safety net programs, environmental issues and competitiveness.
- This review is the umbrella under which new policies will emerge.
- Also see 3.3 above.

Highways and Transportation:
- Saskatchewan Discussion Paper Grain Transportation Partnership, was released (March 1991).
- Public consultations on grain transportation issues are being conducted to prepare a provincial position for federal-provincial discussions under the Agri-Food Policy Review and provide input for grain transportation planning.
- Provincial position on options for Western Grain Transportation Agreement (WGTA) being developed for negotiations with federal government on payment of grain transportation subsidies and branch line rationalization process.
- Alternative options for rail service on grain-dependent branch lines being pursued. e.g. short line railways, road-railer technology.

3.9	Producers must act to take advantage of emerging markets for non-traditional meats (fowl, fish and game).	3.9 **Agriculture and Food:** . Government is supportive of the efforts of producers and their associations to create both slaughtering facilities and marketing opportunities in the game animal field. . Government is also assisting with the development of aqua-culture. . Government supports marketing initiatives through direct equity investment, consultation services, research and demonstration activities.
3.10	Municipal governments must encourage development of market gardens and greenhouses.	3.10 **Agriculture and Food:** . Over 100 commercial greenhouse operations are active in the province and have formed a Greenhouse Growers Association. There is further potential for expansion in tree seedlings, house plants, and cut flowers. . Market gardening potential exists in areas of seed potatoes, seed breeding and in producing small fruits, particulary native fruits.
3.11	Producers must take advantage of opportunities that exist in growing, harvesting and marketing of horticultural and native crops.	3.11 **Economic Diversification and Trade:** . Export Marketing Assistance Program targets horticultural crops and processed food stuffs. **Agriculture and Food:** . Government supports native fruit development through a research project at the University of Saskatchewan ($100,000).
3.12	Provincial and municipal governments in concert with private enterprise must work aggressively to ensure that farm inputs (fertilizers, chemicals, equipment and fuels) are produced in Saskatchewan wherever possible.	3.12 **Agriculture and Food:** . Saferco plant in Belle Plain encourages the production of in-puts using Saskatchewan natural resources. . Ongoing efforts are made to encourage local enterprise in this area. . Agriculture Diversification Fund support for the Focus on Inputs initiative has been provided by various provincial government sources.
3.13	The provincial government must examine the pricing of major farm inputs to ensure the regulatory framework provides for competitive prices.	3.13 **Agriculture and Food:** . The Bureau of Competition Policy, which is a federal agency, addresses itself to pricing issues. . The provincial government monitors and surveys input costs on an ongoing basis, and contributes to the National Farm Input Price Index (FIPI) data assessment. Data is made available to farmers through a number of means.

3.14 Producers must pay special attention to the development of chemical free farming and "natural/organic" agricultural products.

3.14 **Agriculture and Food:**
- Saskatchewan will participate in the development of a national certification system for organically grown produce.
- The Agriculture Development Fund has underwritten marketing, needs assessment, and market intelligence studies for organic producers in Saskatchewan.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Our Goal Is:

We develop our natural resources to derive maximum economic benefit while respecting the principles of sustainable development. In particular, we ensure that northern residents are involved in establishing future directions and receive a fair share of the benefits from resource development.

Recommendations

3.15 Wherever feasible, the Federal and Provincial governments must encourage more value added processing of our renewable and non-renewable resources within Saskatchewan.

3.15 **Parks and Renewable Resources:**
- "Forest products and marketing" as a concept is being raised with federal government as part of the federal/provincial partnership agreement in Forestry.

Energy and Mines:
- The NewGrade and Lloydminster heavy oil upgraders, and the Saferco fertilizer plant (natural gas feedstock) all involve the further processing of energy resources.

3.16	The Government must ensure that we are self-reliant in meeting our energy requirements.	3.16 **Energy and Mines:** . Saskatchewan, as a result of provincial deregulation and price sensitive royalty regimes, has seen rapid development of its natural gas industry. Since deregulation was introduced in 1987, Saskatchewan has moved from a net importer to a significant net exporter of natural gas. . Saskatchewan is also a net exporter of crude oil. Support for the development of horizontal well technology for heavy oil, and price sensitive royalty regimes for conventional, heavy and light oil production all have contributed to the orderly development of the province's oil and gas industry. . Saskatchewan is also self-sufficient in coal which is used to generate most of the province's electricity. Electricity self-reliance is one of the objectives being examined through the Energy Options public consultation process being carried out by Sask Power. Provincial support for clean coal technology research and development is ensuring that coal will continue to be an economical and environmentally acceptable electricity generation option. . Energy Options Review.
3.17	All industries and government bodies involved in managing the forest must agree on a long term action plan to ensure that the forest is fully utilized and perpetuated.	3.17 **Parks and Renewable Resources:** . "Integrated Forest Management Planning and Development" is a category suggested for funding under the partnership agreement in forestry being negotiated with the federal government.
3.18	Government and university research must find a wider range of uses for forest and natural resources.	3.18 **Parks and Renewable Resources:** . Government is improving research capability by establishing a Forest Research Advisory Council. **Education:** . Will release Forestry Video and Resource Kit for classroom use (fall, 1991). See 1.18 above.
3.19.	Extracting and refining minerals and finding new uses for our abundant mineral deposits must be encouraged.	3.19 **Energy and Mines:** . The Mineral Industry Development program (cost-shared with the federal government) is designed to promote further exploration and development of mineral resources, particularly gold, coal, diamonds, building stone, and other industrial minerals.
3.20	The government must ensure that our fish stocks in northern lakes are maintained for sport and commercial fishing.	3.20 **Parks and Renewable Resources:** . A Fisheries Action Plan is under public review.

TOURISM

Our Goal Is:

We expand and accelerate tourism development throughout the province: to increase the number of visitors we have each year; to ensure that they enjoy and extend the length of their stay; and to ensure they return to visit on other occasions.

Recommendations

3.21	Every Saskatchewan person must become a salesperson for the province.	3.21 **Economic Diversification and Trade:** . Saskatchewan Ambassador Program provides tourism information to residents who travel out of province.
3.22	A collaborative effort of business interests, municipal governments and local community groups must identify, develop and promote more local and regional attractions.	3.22 **Economic Diversification and Trade:** . Government is working on the development of a tourism strategy which has as one of its main objectives the development of collaborative efforts between government, business and communities on a regional basis. **Family Foundation:** . Developing historic sites through consultation, technical support and workshops. . Will implement strategies, Heritage 2000 and Heritage Resource Master Systems Plan for protection and development of historic resources.
3.23	The provincial and municipal governments must provide quality road access, signage and support services for tourist attractions.	3.23 **Highways and Transportation:** . See 2.11 above.
3.24	TISASK (Tourism Industry Sask), Chambers of Commerce, the regional colleges and the Hotel Association must further support, promote and expand hospitality training for service sector and retail staff.	3.24 **Economic Diversification and Trade:** . The department is working with the Tourism Industry Association of Saskatchewan (TISASK) on the Saskatchewan Host Program to improve sales skills of employees. Over 5000 workers and students have the received course.

3.25 The province must exhibit more flexibility in licensing fees for hunting and fishing.

3.25 **Parks and Renewable Resources:**
- New non-trophy antelope and mule deer seasons at a reduced licence fee ($20) were announced in April, 1991.
- Future non-resident, big-game hunting opportunities are being considered.

ENVIRONMENT

Our Goal Is:

Economic expansion and diversification objectives are achieved while sustaining a healthy provincial environment.

Recommendations

3.26 Governments, the universities, industry and special interest groups should encourage the establishment of firms involved in research and development and manufacturing of environmentally safe products, services and technology.

3.26 **Environment and Public Safety:**
- An environmental business coordinator has been appointed. An inventory of environmental business opportunities is being compiled.
- Corporate Environmentalism coordinator appointment announced June, 1991.

3.27 Schools, government, industry and the media must promote awareness of the importance of the environment and the consequences of its neglect, and promote the development of strategies to ensure protection.

3.27 **Environment and Public Safety:**

- The clean cat school recycling program was announced in May, 1991.
- Youth Corps Program began second season May 1991.
- Information Resource Centre Network being established.
- Two community Blue Box recycling pilot projects will be launched in June, 1991.
- Waste Reduction Council establishment has been announced.
- Recycling directory distribution began in April 1991.
- Environmental awards presentations will be made in June, 1991.
- The department's toll free phone line (1-800-668-INFO) provides energy conservation advice for consumers.
- Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Review Commission report released in April. A white paper on the report's recommendations will be released in June 1991.
- State of the Environment Report released June 1991.
- Legislative Standing Committee announced in June, 1991, as part of Saskatchewan's Environmental Action Plan.
- A provincial conservation strategy for sustainable development is underway; after public consultations this fall, Saskatchewan's Round Table on Environment and Economy will present final strategy to government in December 1991.
- An Environmental Education Program will be announced in September 1991.
- A Clean Air Strategy is under development; will go to public consultation in summer of 1991.
- Environmental Workplace program (recycling and waste reduction) saved about 5,600 trees and 890 cubic yards of landfill in 11 months.

Education:

- Will release Energy and the Environment Video and Resource Kit for classroom use (fall, 1991).

Family Foundation:

- Heritage Property Regulations ensure heritage resource preservation and department is developing regulatory programs (i.e. requirements for impact assessments).
- Distributed Choose to Conserve: The Consumer and the Environment education kit.

3.28 Landowners, environmental groups, governments and universities must undertake measures to ensure conservation of soil, water and energy, and must be active in repairing existing environmental damage.

3.29 Government must regulate, monitor and strictly enforce standards to maintain a healthy environment.

3.28 **Environment and Public Safety:**
- Agricultural Chemical collection is ongoing.
- The Great Sand Hills Land Use Strategy released in May 1991.
- Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Review Commission (SEARC) released its report "Environmental Challenges" in February, 1991.

3.29 **Energy and Mines:**
- Through its Clean Air Strategy, the province is consulting with the public and major stakeholders to define a strategy that will maintain Saskatchewan's clear air. The Strategy will consider global warming, ozone depletion, acid rain and indoor air quality.

Environment and Public Safety:
- Uranium Board of Inquiry was announced in April, 1991. For both federal and provincial governments, the Board will consider proposals for five new uranium mines in Saskatchewan.
- Waste hazardous chemical collection program announced June, 1991.
- Secure storage for hazardous chemicals (as PCBs), and environmental pollutant spill monitoring and control continue.
- New legislation, The Ozone Depleting Substances Control Act, effective January, 1991, phases out manufacture/sale of various ozone-depleting substances, and provides for their final disposal.

Family Foundation:
- Considering process for monitoring social impact of economic initiatives, with Environment and Public Safety.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Our Goal Is:

The potential for science and technology is developed to provide both clean industries and premium employment opportunities in our provincial economy.

Recommendations

3.30 Education and training at the high school, university and technical levels must produce graduates capable of working and leading in advanced technology areas and business. The people of individual communities and industries in the province must have substantial input into the course offerings of post-secondary institutions.

3.30 **Saskatchewan Communications Network:**
- The Saskatchewan Communications Network (SCN) was officially opened in May, 1991. The network will assist with education and information on science and technology subjects.

Education:
- Implemented new Science Curriculum (elementary) and developed and piloted new Science Curriculum for middle and secondary levels.
- Released Uranium Video and Resource Kit for classroom use.
- Continued involvement of the industry through SIAST programs advisory boards and apprenticeship trade advisory boards.

3.31 Funding of research and development in science and technology must be a priority for universities, industry and government.

3.31 **Economic Diversification and Trade:**

- Economic Diversification and Trade supports science and technology projects (3.5M to 47 projects in 1990-91).
- Other government departments, particularly Health and Agriculture and Food, support research projects on an ongoing basis.

Highways and Transportation:

- Has active R & D budget for transportation infrastructure and services.
- Undertakes ongoing participation in national and international research activity.
- Marketing of R & D could be enhanced to promote commercial applications and enhance competitiveness of Saskatchewan business.

3.32 The government, universities and industry must encourage the development and expansion of centres of excellence, starting in areas where we already have a natural advantage such as advanced technology, communications, health care technology and agriculture.

3.32 **Agriculture and Food:**

- An International Centre for Agricultural Science and Technology (ICAST) has been established at the University of Saskatchewan and funded by the federal and provincial governments.

Economic Diversification and Trade:

- Saskatchewan Economic Diversification and Trade has announced funding support for Centres of Excellence activity in Saskatchewan.
- This funding of $600,000 per year for four years will help support Saskatchewan researchers and industry participation in the federal Networks of Centres of Excellence Program.
- It will also provide support to Saskatchewan university/industry teams carrying out research and development of new technologies for Saskatchewan's industrial and community development.
- The federal government has approved 14 networks of Centres of Excellence for four year funding under its $240M program for the support of world class industrial and university based research across Canada.
- Researchers at the University of Saskatchewan together with three Saskatchewan Companies (SCI-TEC Instruments Ltd., Scientific Instrumentation Ltd., and SED Systems Inc.) are involved in 6 ($8M in federal funding) of these 14 networks. The Saskatchewan based nodes of the network include:
  - the Bacterial Diseases Network
  - the Canadian Network for Space Research
  - the Centre of Excellence for Molecular and Interfacial Dynamics
  - the Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Systems
  - the Neuro Regeneration and Functional Recovery node
  - the Respiratory Health Network

Education:

- Will officially open new College of Agriculture building at University of Saskatchewan.

3.33 The provincial government must consider protecting the new ideas of Saskatchewan residents by ensuring that patent laws are not indirectly subverted by patent infringement.

3.33 **Economic Diversification and Trade:**

. The provincial government is monitoring progress made by the federal government regarding policies on intellectual property and patents. This is particularly true related to university research.

PUBLIC DEBT AND DEFICIT BUDGETS

Our Goal Is:

Saskatchewan has a balanced budget and has developed a plan to be debt free.

Recommendations

4.1	Action must be taken immediately to eliminate budgetary deficits and to reduce the accumulated debt over a period of time. Reduction of the accumulated debt must be done in such a fashion that the people of Saskatchewan are aware that it is being reduced. It is recommended that Saskatchewan have a balanced budget in the year 1993, be debt free by the year 2015 and have an accumulated surplus which is equal to 20% of budgetary expenditures by the year 2025.	4.1 **Finance:** . Deficit was reduced to $265M in 1991-92. . A plan to eliminate the deficit by 1993-94 is linked to a 6-point plan for financial recovery and is part of the budget. . The points of the plan include: - achievable deficit targets - reasonable wage guidelines - realistic operating grants - fair taxation - more efficient and effective government - improved federal/provincial relations
4.2	Legislation must be passed which severely restricts the possibility of a deficit.	4.2 **Finance:** . A six point plan has been adopted to eliminate the deficit by 1993-94 in a reasonable and responsible manner. Also, The Referendum and Plebiscite Act has been introduced. If passed, would enable a referendum on this issue.
4.3	We should implement a special tax targeted to reducing the accumulated debt.	4.3 **Finance:** . There will be no tax increases for the next three years. The accumulated debt will be reduced through the revenue generated by economic growth once the budget is balanced.
4.4	We must define areas of provincial, local and federal responsibility so that there is little overlap of program and agenda.	4.4 **Finance:** . Federal/provincial discussions are ongoing. . Consideration of this issue is also part of the ongoing discussions on constitutional reform. . Government has consolidated community, targeted capital funding into a single program and placed full responsibility for decision-making with the local level of government.

4.5	Agricultural subsidies should be reviewed. Price subsidies for agriculture which are a direct result of international trade wars must be the sole responsibility of the Federal Government.	4.5 **Agriculture and Food:** . Agriculture subsidies have been included in the National Agri-Food Policy Review (see 3.8). . Federal authorities have acknowledged the need to provide assistance under the Third Line of Defence, through the recently-announced Farm Support and Adjustment Measures (FSAM) Program.
4.6	To identify essential program priorities, comparisons must be made between government programs provided in Saskatchewan and those in other jurisdictions.	4.6 **Finance:** . This action is undertaken on an ongoing basis as part of the budgetary process.
4.7	"Sunset clauses" to limit the duration of programs should be clearly defined in Legislation for all programs.	4.7 **Finance:** . While sun-set clauses are not universal in all legislation, it occurs on occasion. Consideration of a more comprehensive approach is under review for new programs.
4.8	All programs must be evaluated periodically following the value for money audit concept.	4.8 **Finance:** . Legislation has been introduced in the Legislature regarding an expanded role for the Provincial Auditor and will be referred to the Public Accounts Committee for review.
4.9	The government must conduct a complete, comprehensive review and priorization of grants.	4.9 **Finance:** . Was undertaken as part of budget process for 1991-92, and will continue on an ongoing basis. . Have reviewed both lottery grants and municipal grants.
4.10	Non-governmental organizations should closely liaise and communicate with one another and with government agencies to avoid unnecessary duplication of services.	

4.11 Crown Corporations and all other agencies funded primarily by tax dollars should be required to publish complete audited financial information disclosing salaries, travel, and other expenditures.

4.12 Grants must be targeted to specific needs rather than wants.

4.13 A statement providing the true cost of publicly funded services must be given to each recipient to ensure that everyone understands that services funded by government actually cost us money.

4.14 The Government, the civil service, publicly funded agencies and the general public must be more accountable for the use of money.

4.15 Privatization should be based on a sound business analysis and should not be based on political ideology.

4.16 The involvement by government in business of all types should be evaluated.

4.17 Government must not subsidize the start-up of a new business to the detriment of an existing Saskatchewan business.

4.12 **Finance:**
- Many grants have been eliminated, including the Business Tax Assistance Program and the Small Business Investment Incentives Program this year as well as the HOME Program last year.

4.13 **Finance:**
- Efforts have been made as part of the recent budget tabled in April, 1991 to distribute more complete information to the public regarding program services and costs.

Health:
- Distribution of health care expenditure statements done in 1991. See 4.35 below.

4.14 **Family Foundation:**
- Lotteries funding to be monitored.

Finance:
- Measures are being undertaken to improve accountability and disclosure requirements for government organizations. See 4.28.

4.15 **Finance:**
- Government is committed to privatization on a case by case basis based on public support.

TAXES AND ROYALTIES

Our Goal Is:

Saskatchewan has reasonable but competitive tax and royalty structures.

Recommendations

4.18 A mechanism must be developed to ensure and assure us that we are receiving appropriate compensation for our non-renewable resources and that corporate income tax is in line with that in other provinces.

4.18 **Energy and Mines:**

- The royalty and tax structure for the four major, non-renewable resource commodities - oil, natural gas, potash and uranium - have all been reviewed and amended in major ways over the past four years.

4.19 The structural arrangement for the collection of royalties must be such that Saskatchewan processing of natural resources is encouraged.

4.19 **Finance:**

- Taxation and royalty levels are monitored on an ongoing basis. They are analyzed to ensure that an equitable sharing of revenue between industry and government is maintained in light of changes in market conditions and changes in other provincial royalty and taxation schedules.
- Annual budget documents provided to the public demonstrate that the province receives appropriate compensation for non-renewable resources, and that corporate income tax is in line with that in other provinces.

4.20 A comprehensive review of the tax system must be conducted to ensure it is fair and rational.

4.20 **Finance:**

- A tax review was undertaken as part of the 1991-92 budget review. Also see 4.23 below.

4.21 Business and property tax on industry must reflect the industry's ability to pay and must not be so high as to deter development.

4.21 **Finance:**

- See 4.19 above.

4.22 Consideration should be given to establishing targeted taxes which would change as the cost of a particular service changes.

4.22 **Finance:**

- Dedicated tax proposals are reviewed when brought forward by departments.

4.23 The government of Saskatchewan should collaborate with the federal government in administering common tax collection systems.

4.23 **Finance:**
- Government has introduced harmonization of E & H tax with GST, April, 1991/January, 1992.
- Corporation Capital and Income Tax rates are being increased from 0.5% - 0.6% and from 15% to 16% respectively.
- Tax collection agreements are regularly reviewed.

4.24 Innovative investment opportunities must be promoted to encourage investment in Saskatchewan.

4.24 **Economic Diversification and Trade:**
- Community Bonds Program encourages Saskatchewan people to invest in Saskatchewan businesses.

BUDGETS, ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Our Goal Is:

Public sector budgetary processes are revised to ensure that the governments look beyond short term budget strategies and plan for the medium to long term.

Recommendations

4.25 A five year fiscal plan must be included with the estimates tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

4.25 **Finance:**
- A three year plan for financial recovery was tabled as part of budget in April, 1991.
- Each annual budget begins with a five year forecast and the budget is planned in this context.

4.26 Specific provision must be made in the provincial budget to include all future commitments for which no provision has been made.

4.26 **Finance:**
- Recommendation is under active review.

Our Goal Is:

All citizens demand and receive accountability from all levels of government and actively participate in public affairs at all levels.

Recommendations

4.27	A Freedom of Information Act must be enacted to promote more open government and allow the free flow of information related to the use of public funds in every aspect of government operations.	4.27 **Justice:** . Legislation was introduced in the Legislature, April 1991.
4.28	A complete annual financial report should be made available to the public which includes ALL government agencies.	4.28 **Finance:** . Accountability of government organizations are being improved through: - introducing legislative amendments to require all government organizations to submit their financial statements to the Legislature within specified time constraints; - changing the budget process for government organizations to increase accountability over their spending; - strengthening disclosure requirements for government organizations funded primarily by tax dollars; - introducing legislative amendments requiring the Public Accounts to be completed by November and provided to the Legislature as soon as the House is in session; - requesting the Public Accounts Committee, an all-party committee, in conjunction with the Provincial Auditor to determine the kind of information and the level of detail needed in the Public Accounts; - providing a comparison of the annual budget to actual results in the province's main financial statement beginning in 1990-91; - including forecasted results for the current year with the annual budget such that the 1991-92 budget, for example, showed a current forecast of revenues and spending for 1990-91; and - the compilation and inclusion in the Public Accounts of a collection of the financial statements of all government organizations.
4.29	The Provincial Auditor's role must be expanded to include supervision of periodic value for money audits or some similar process which is free from government influence.	4.29 **Finance:** . Role and independence of the Provincial Auditor is being strengthened through: - examining the options for value for money auditing with the Provincial Auditor; and - introducing legislative amendments to have the budget of the Provincial Auditor approved by the Board of Internal Economy, an all-party committee.

4.30	The Provincial Auditor must have access to all government and crown corporation financial records.	
4.31	The Provincial Auditor's role as an independent servant of the Legislative Assembly must be confirmed.	4.31 **Finance:** . See 4.8 above.
4.32	All party committees should be established to determine appointees to provincial boards, commissions, management positions in crown corporations, etc, and thus reduce "political patronage".	4.32 Further reforms to procedures and rules of the Legislature are under review.
4.33	The severance and retirement package for MLA's should be comparable to the public service.	4.33 **Finance:** . Severance packages for MLA's have been eliminated.

HEALTH

Our Goal Is:

Saskatchewan's health care system is efficient and affordable.

Recommendations

4.34	Consideration must be given to some form of individual health care contribution.	4.34 **Health:** . Consideration being given to alternatives on how individuals might contribute more for selected health services.
4.35	Consideration should be given to the introduction of a Health Care Consumer statement that would specify the "costs" accruing to each consumer for their use of the health care system.	4.35 **Health:** . Every family in the province received a health expenditure statement earlier this year.
4.36	Health programs, services and facilities must be reviewed and specific areas of savings identified and implemented.	4.36 **Health:** . The Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL) Program has been reviewed and restructured to make it more fair and to provide better service. . Drug Plan now offers point of service cost/value information.
4.37	A broader range of sources for funding for health care must be investigated.	4.37 **Health:** . Government has created the Saskatoon Health Services Authority to facilitate and coordinate hospital services in Saskatoon.

EDUCATION

Our Goal Is:

Saskatchewan's education system provides a continuum of life long learning for all its citizens. The system is efficient and cost effective and has adapted well to demographic and social changes.

Recommendations

4.38 Education must continue to develop partnerships with families, business and the communities to help them deal with social and economic issues.

4.38 **Education:**
- Continuing "Reading Campaign" and parent/public involvement in education initiatives.
- Continuing volunteer literacy campaign.
- Published information on how schools can establish volunteer programs.
- Supported business and education conference (April 1991).
- Continuing IBM/PALS project whereby computers are used to assist teachers who are instructing literacy programs.

4.39 Saskatchewan Department of Education and school divisions must constantly search for more effective and efficient use of resources. Currently, we cannot afford additional or expanded systems.

4.39 **Education:**
- Initiated K-12 School Finance and Governance review.

4.40 In the education systems, specific areas of dollar savings should be identified and implemented.

4.40 **Education:**
- Legislation requires publication of K-12 school division Public Accounts.

4.41 The Government of Saskatchewan should allocate funding for educational research.

APPENDIX A LIST OF MEMBERS OF CONSENSUS SASKATCHEWAN

ADAMSON, Barbara	Regina
ALLINGHAM, Mary Jean	Rockglen
ANDRES, David	Hepburn
ANWEILER, Linda	Saskatoon
ARRAF, Emile	Meadow Lake
ATTRIDGE, Robert	Gull Lake
BARCLAY, Byrna	Regina
BELANGER, Buckley	Ile a la Crosse
BERGLUND, Marlene	Stockholm
BEVAN, Leona	Carievale
BLACK, Joan	Saskatoon
BLOSSER, Frank	Kelvington
BRYDE, John	Regina
BUSCH, Gerald	Kerrobert
CLARY, Marlyn	Leader
COULSON, Gail	Belle Plain
CROFT, Colleen	Saskatoon
DEWALT, Kevin	Regina
DIAKOW, Joseph	Muenster
DICKSON, Pat	Saskatoon
DIEHL, Sharon	Prince Albert
DYCK, Agatha	Swift Current
EXELBY, June	Craik
FORTIN, Terry	Prince Albert
FRIER, Dale	Melfort
GRACEY, Marion	Regina
HAMILTON, Craig	Swift Current
HANKE, Glen	Beechy
HARWOOD, Judy	Saskatoon
HAUGERUD, Vie	Hudson Bay
HERMAN, Cal	Lanigan
HEWITT, Bill	Lloydminster
HORNICK, Glenn	North Battleford
ISINGER, Lori	Saskatoon
ISMOND, William	Togo
JACKSON, Pat	Saskatoon
JOHANSON, Marge	Kipling
KLEIN, Merle	Biggar
KOHLMAN, Aquina	Cactus Lake
KOWERCHUK, Natalie	Rabbit Lake
KWON, Prof. Yul	Regina
KYLE, Mavis	Saskatoon
L'HEUREUX, Bob	Swift Current
LANGENEGGER, Pat	McLean
LAROCQUE, Beth	Saskatoon
LAWSON, Patricia	Saskatoon
LEYDON, Leo	Weyburn
LINKERT, Norm	St. Walburg
MALACH, Vivian	Candiac
MALINOWSKI, Ray	Yorkton
MANN, Robert	Moose Jaw
MARCOTTE, Inis	Torquay
McBRIDE, Cheryle	Yorkton
McCONNELL, Lillian	Regina
McKEAGUE, Neva	Saskatoon
MIKE, Flora	Duck Lake
MILLER, Jacqueline	Regina
MISKIMAN, Patrick	Nipawin
MOUNSEY, Darrell	Regina
NIXDORF, Karen	Milestone
PARNEY, Barbara	Rosetown
PENKALA, Joseph	Saskatoon
PENNER, Mary	Warman
PILLING, Glenn	Spiritwood
POISSANT, Jean-Guy	Sedley
POLLARD, Merina	Regina
POPP, Myron	Regina
POWELL, Don	Balcarres
REIBIN, Len	Creighton
REITER, Carol	Luseland
ROSAASEN, Ken	Saskatoon
SALTER, Jean	Ponteix
SAWATZKY, Gary	Preeceville
SCHULTZ, Carol	Strasbourg
SEKULICH, Pat	Davidson
SELANDERS, Mona	Moose Jaw
SEMENCHUCK, Randy	Regina
SPROULE, Lionel	Watrous
STORZUK, Bernie	North Battleford
SUDOL, Frank	Paddockwood
SWEDBERG-KOHLI, Susan	Regina
THOMPSON, Verna	Eston
TINKER, Gary	Pinehouse Lake
TOEWS, Robert	Herbert
VISVANATHAN, Komaluru	Estevan
WALDBILLIG, Stella	Cudworth
WARRINGTON, Bill	Loverna
WEGWITZ, Len	Moose Jaw
WELLS, Rev. James	Regina
WHEATON, Don	Biggar
WHYMAN, Ronald	Alameda
WIEBE, Anne	Herbert
WILSON, Alfreda	Prince Albert
WILTON, Sandra	Saskatoon

education, focusing on science and technology, enhances Saskatchewan's economic diversification.

Our education and employment opportunities attract and retain a steady in-migration of talented people. Complementary federal and provincial immigration policies attract new citizens with varied skills to settle in all geographic areas of the province. Their innovation and entrepreneurship results in increased business expansion, job opportunities and economic development.

Leadership in the business of environmental preservation and restoration ensures that our province enjoys an attractive, healthy, clean and comfortable environment. We are a centre for environmental research and development. Through technology transfer, innovative products and processes used to regenerate and restore our environment are in great demand on the global market.

Our rapid advance in this industry builds on the strength of our environment that remains among the cleanest on earth. The ensuing benefits, both direct and indirect, increase employment, create wide diversification in industry, improve health and enhance the overall beauty of the province. Saskatchewan serves as a model by which others pattern their own environmental strategies.

Saskatchewan is internationally recognized in many areas of agriculture including cereal grains, market gardens, meat products, and chemical free farm produce. Our farmers continue to harvest the highest quality grains in the world. Farm policies ensure a fair return to our farmers. This results in economically viable farms, both large and small, that meet the needs of producers and consumers. Saskatchewan further diversifies its agribusiness network through value-added processing of its raw agricultural products and development of new agricultural technologies. This redefines and revitalizes our farm communities.

A healthy mining industry contributes to meaningful employment throughout the province, particularly in the northern regions. Potash, oil and gas and other minerals are both extracted and processed for sale in markets world-wide. Our forestry industry is sustained through active reforestation programs and value-added processing of products for export.

Tourism contributes significantly to the wealth of the province. Our national, provincial and regional parks offer a unique opportunity to explore and experience nature. We offer many varieties of outdoor recreation in all seasons. Lakes of clear water generate revenues from tourists who engage in water sports, fishing, and wilderness camping. Tour packages provide economic spinoffs, employment opportunities and new revenues. Tourists are greeted by enthusiastic and friendly people who extend a warm welcome and offer top quality service.

An active research and development program makes us a leader in telecommunications technology. Our fibre optics network and access to satellite distribution systems enable us to attract business which requires state of the art capability. This infrastructure links our centres of excellence in business and education and connects them to their world-wide counterparts.

The media assumes a significant role in promoting all of these positive qualities.

Saskatchewan demonstrates leadership in the wise management of our financial resources. Our provincial government sets the standard for efficient fiscal management resulting in balanced budgets.

Operating surpluses are retained for use in times of need, eliminating deficit financing. This careful stewardship of our fiscal resources enables tax levels to remain stable.

Our people have a high rate of savings, investing in their communities and local companies which contributes to economic prosperity. As a result, we enjoy an extremely high level of employment and a broad tax base supporting our high quality social programs.

An innovative system of community assessment identifies the need for services at the local level. Ongoing evaluation by individual communities is the basis for funding priorities. This decentralized system has reasonable administration costs, allowing services to reach the people who need them.

A "Freedom of Information Act" ensures accountability between all levels of government and the public. The free-flow of information related to the use of public funds and all other aspects of government operation allows Saskatchewan people to be effectively involved in decision-making.

We are a people in control of our destiny with a shared vision of the future. From many peoples strength and confidence combined together in active communities comes economic development and prosperity for our province. This is our heritage and this is what we give to the future.

APPENDIX B **VISION OF CONSENSUS SASKATCHEWAN**

FROM MANY PEOPLES STRENGTH

This is the Saskatchewan of the future. It is a Saskatchewan which was described in many different words by many different people in the 108 public meetings of Consensus Saskatchewan. It is deliberately not dated but it could very well be the Saskatchewan which we celebrate on the one hundredth anniversary of our province, September 1, 2005. It is the Saskatchewan that our children will inherit. It is the province of Canada where many people will wish to live because it is a very fine place to be.

This vision of the future is written in the present tense. Like athletes who achieve success by imagining that they ARE the winner not that they will BE the winner, this is a vision of a province that IS rather than a province that MIGHT BE. In reading this vision, we must all place ourselves in the future and see what we are as a province in the 21st century.

The strength of our province is its people. While rich in natural resources and blessed with wide open spaces, Saskatchewan's identity is first and foremost created through its people. It is a region filled with citizens whose pride in the province and confidence in themselves creates expectations and accomplishments as broad as the land's horizons. In the search for a place where people "get the job done", the world comes to Saskatchewan.

The people of Saskatchewan subscribe fully to family and spiritual values. Collectively, the importance placed on these values yields respect for ourselves and others. As a result we enjoy healthy, satisfying lifestyles. People of all ages experience personal fulfilment by leading mutually caring, productive lives.

Saskatchewan's people are vital, integral contributors to the well-being of our province. Our self-esteem allows for effective participation and cooperation in all public processes. This is of particular significance to aboriginal people. Issues such as land settlements, treaties, self-governance, economic development, education, employment and taxation are resolved to the benefit of everyone.

When joined together in communities, our exceptionally spirited people promote education; encourage arts, culture, and recreation; emphasize health and social programs; and foster business through the development of infrastructure. Opportunities abound through jobs and services for people of all ages with many different skills and abilities.

Our educational system is an important foundation of our communities. Through a network of schools and post-secondary institutions, strengthened by modern telecommunications technology, educational opportunities are available to meet the lifelong learning needs of our people wherever they live and work.

With education and training available through the use of advanced technology, business and industry find it attractive to locate in all areas of the province. Our telecommunications and transportation networks enable us to support and enhance a diversified economy and a lifestyle rich in cultural and educational opportunities.

An effective preventive health care program contributes to individual wellness and lowers overall health care costs, thus making more affordable and readily available other needed health care services. Health conscious practices permeate every part of our lifestyle. Fitness has come to embody all the aspects of mental, physical and emotional health. Because we value these, they are the thread that weaves fitness into the very fabric of the province.

Saskatchewan's multi-tiered health care system delivers the full range of health care from basic to highly specialized. Specialized services located in major centres are accessible to all people of the province through the use of transportation and telecommunication networks.

Regionalization within the province is a major factor in sustaining our communities. These effective units of administration, working toward common goals, ensure economic prosperity and viability. This regionalization, together with excellent telecommunication and transportation networks, plays a major role in assuring that all communities, especially in the north, have access to comprehensive facilities and services.

Saskatchewan is a place where progress is continual and stimulated by the imagination of its people. Our province is home to centres of excellence in a variety of fields such as agriculture, forestry, mining, medicine, health care delivery and environmental protection. Our emphasis on